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PRICE TWO CENTS

WILSON FORCES LANSING TO RESIGN OFFICE; CHARGES SECRETARY WITH USURPING POWER; OFFENCE LAY IN CALLING CABINET MEETINGS

WAR VETERANS ATTACK SNOW

dorsed by Legion, to Arm With Pick and Shovel.

Break Blockade-\$2,000,000 More Appropriated.

Despairing of getting the ice coated

many more have been suggested, but steam to her assistance. came to the conclusion that the only remedy for the present situation, layed food shipments, fire peril and the accumulation of uncollected garpicks to chop loose the ice and another army with shovels to clear it

Thirty representatives of hig prod-North River from Chambers street to Canal called upon Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner of Health, to tell him the message read. that thousands of dollars worth of perishable fruits and provisions were blockade. Commissioner Copeland led them from his office across the icy

The proclamation calling upon the members of the American Legion to take up picks and shovels as they had taken up rifles came after the Mayor had summoned to his office Francis R. Stoddard, Jr., member of the New York city executive committee of the legion; Joseph L. Seligmann, Jr., State treasurer; Hugh W. Robertson, assistant to Commander Russell Sard, and De Witt C. Weld, Jr. chairman of the Kings county These were the highest officers of the legion in the city. agreed to do everything possible to get the 25,000 legion members in the city, or as many as would volunteer, out on the streets at 2 o'clock this afternoon,

Mayor's Appeal to Veterans. The Mayor's proclamation was as fol-

The Street Cleaning Commissioner reports to me that due to the lack of men he is unable to adequately cope with the extraordinary conditions confronting the city by reason of the present great storm, and that the health and ness of the people of the city may jeopardized. The situation, therefor Immediate action

fire houses so that in the event of fire it would not gain headway enough to endanger life and property. The re-moval of ashes and garbage is seriously interfered with and the accumulation of garbage may impair the health of the

"In this emergency I turn for assistance to those men who, when the country was in need, railled to its support. I appeal to every member of the Amercan Legion to aid in removing what may prove to be a menace. With the Steele Maitland, after a scathing poperation of the State and county officials of the American Legion I have arranged with the Street Cleaning Department to designate the following mobilization points where men may report and tools will be available:

"Manhattan-74 Greenwich street, 18 Burling Slip. 7 North Moore street, 64 mpson street, 496 Hudson street, 174 Waverley place, 426 Columbus avenue, 520 Amsterdam avenue, 17 West 100th street, 152 West 103d street, 16 Old Broadway, southwest corner Lawrence street and Old Broadway, 1598 Amsterdam avenue, 232 West 124th street, 2473 Eighth avenue, 27 Broadhurst avenue, southwest corner 159th street and Edge combe avenue, 58 Audubon avenue, 2515 Amsterdam avenue and 287 West 206th

Brooklyn-352 Hicks street, 132 Harrison street, 421 Columbia street, 73 Fulton street, 180 Butler atreet, 182 Fourth avenue, 177 Concord street, 332 195 Clifton place, 417 Adelphi street, 639 Washington avenue, Central avenue, 2789 Fulton street. Atlantic avenue, 364 Marcy avenue, Myrtle avenue, 325 Quincy street, 17 Lewis avenue, 559 Rogers avenue, 17 Snider avenue, 1319 Foster avenue, 2767 West Sixteenth street, Coney Island; \$20 Evergroun avenue, 532 Central ave-

Bronx-482 East 142d street, 876 Perest avenue, 1116 Longwood avenue, 1250 Intervale avenue, Thomas street, over the edge of a steep incline. At \$70 East 1524 street, 1458 Brook ave- picture taken.

the and 493 East 168th street. A.
The legion members who respend to

Continued on Fourth Page.

SHIP IN FLAMES FLASHES RADIO CALLS FOR AID

Mayor Issues Appeal, In- William Henry Webb, on Maiden Voyage, in Peril Off Tucker's Beach, N. J.

FOOD TIEUP NOW SERIOUS BOATS RUSHED TO SCENE

Great Force Expected to Help Vessel With Crew of 48 Coming From Philadelphia When Fire Breaks Out.

The United States Shipping Board streets of New York clear in any other steamship William Henry Webb, on way Mayor Hylan issued a proclama- her maiden voyage and bound from tion last night calling upon members | Philadelphia to New York, was franof the American Legion to arm them- tically using the radio last night to selves with picks and shovels to-day summon assistance. One of the calls and free the city of the common said the vessel was in flames and anchored off Tucker's Beach, N. J. Coast Guard cutters and other coastwise snow and ice have been tried and vessels were ordered to proceed at full

The Panaman of the Panama Railroad Company was leading the rescue vessels, it was learned at the office of Naval Communications. Close behind the Panaman steamed the Seneca of the Coast Guard service. Of the two

ing ship At 9:48 P. M. wireless stations in this city picked up the Panaman's re use houses in the streets near the sponse to the Navy Department's or-

would reach shore in lifeboats.

north; long. 74 degrees 3 minutes west." There were other messages that followed and all told of the increasing peril of the vessel. The weather was becomtrouble. A radio call from her in afternoon gave the position she repeated there because of trouble in the engine France or did not go overseas.

Another wireless bulletin asked tugs o stand by until the engineer experimented with the boilers. It was reported the fire room force was trying to get up steam and that if possible the would raise anchor and proceed

message reporting the fire. William Henry Webb left Philadelphia Thursday. She was scheduled to take on a cargo here for China. She was built at Chester, Pa., last November Her deadweight tonnage is 9,000.

LADY ASTOR PUTS DEBATER TO ROUT

The streets must be opened up to Three Words From Her Spoil Opposition Climax.

> Special Cable, Copyright, 1920, by Tan Sch LONDON, Feb. 13 .- With three well words at just the right moment Lady Astor, in the House of Commons to-day, turned a trick for the Coalition Government and took the wind out of the sails of a bitter Opposition attack or the Cabinet's fiscal policy. Sir Arthu-

ment of this policy, reached a climax when he declared: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer may himself be a thorough economist, but his colleagues are not. Does any one think that the Prime Minister is an economist at heart? Does any one think passes sleepless nights in order to study

worth twenty shillings?" In the oratorical pause which followed Lady Astor, in whose home the Premier passed last week end, interjected with an emphatic, resonant voice:

"Yes. I do." Arthur could only reply that he was glad that at least one memb thought somand ended his speech.

GOVERNOR LAID OUT WHEN HE TRIES SKIS

Smith Keeps Going in Snow After His Runners Stop.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD ALBANT, Feb. 13.—Gov. Smith's down-fall occurred yesterday. With Mrs. Smith and a party of friends he went to the Wolfert's Roost Country Club and

tackled some winter sports.

The Governor was induced to strap on Ferris place; 745 East 176th the bottom the skis stopped, but the cet. 2200 Old Morris avenue, 2127 Governor kept on going and landed in thur avenue, 166 East 205th street, a deep drift just in time to have his

"I have run for office sixteen times and never been defeated," said the Governor, "but these skis are see too many

Lenroot Reservation Is Protested by Canada

OTTAWA, Feb. 13.—Canada has given notice to Great Britain that it objects to any change in the covenant of the League of Nations that will prevent the Dominion from being a full fledged member of the league and having a vote in the

After a Cabinet meeting last night urgent representations were forwarded to the imperial authorities protesting against acceptance by Great Britain of the Lenroot reservation to the peace treaty, now being considered by the United States Senate. Several communications on the subject have been forwarded to Great Britain. .

A suggestion that Canada should withdraw from the league if it loses its vote in the assembly has not been acted upon

Republican Leaders in Albany Say Party Will Back Legislation.

BILL IS BEING FRAMED

the Panaman was alone reporting Length of Service and Duty his recommendations. Overseas Will Figure in Fixing Amounts.

der to help the Webb. "Will reach Special to The SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD Webb. Her crew numbers forty men ture, the Republican legislative leaders going to waste because of the street the fire getting beyond control they ence agreed that such legislation should be introduced with the backing living, about which there is much diswaste of Centre street to City Hall, on the boat was received at 8:30 o'clock. where after a conference Mayor Hylan It read: "William Henry Webb on fire here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the here. here. We are anchored off Tucker conference to which officials of the of prices has been reached and that Beach light—Lat. 39 degrees, 31 minutes American Legion of this State will be many foodstuffs are dropping in price

invited. None of the measures so far introduced meets with the approval of the ing worse. Earlier in the day messages leaders. The final bill will provide sevfrom the Webb indicated she was in eral classes of bonuses, making a slight distinction based on length of service last night and said she had anchored and whether the veteran served in

Miss Marguerite L. Smith, the Repubboilers was giving trouble and that her lican Assemblywoman from New York has introduced a bill to appropriate \$20,000,000, for giving each veteran \$10 a month for each month in service. Assemblyman Martin G. quire more than \$40,000,000. Assembly- threatening weather, they were received man Ralph Halpern. Republican of Queens, proposed a bond issue of \$25,-000,000, to give each veteran \$10 a warmly bundled up and wearing a piald 000,000, to give each veteran \$10 a

JAPAN BUILDS NEW WIRELESS.

Messages With United States.

Tokio, Feb. 13 .- The Japanese Government is erecting c. powerful wireless ance, telling the President he was look-station in the prefecture of Fukushima ing well. The President replied that he for the purpose of relieving congested had just been shaved and perhaps that communications between this country had something to do with it. The railand the United States.

R. Geary, general manager for the good spirits. General Electric Company here, the Order of the Rising Sun, fourth class, in opment of Japan's electrical industries,

CLOSING TIME

Classified Advertising

NEW YORK HERALD

The Daily Issue 9 P. M. Day before publication at SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD Office, 280 B'way.

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WILSON MAKES JUSTICE TO ALL PLEA TO UNIONS

Railway Chiefs Preparing Answer to President's

Counter Proposals.

President Confers With the Labor Leaders on Lawn at White House.

pecial to THE SUN AND NEW YORR HERALD. WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 .- Leaders of he railroad brotherhoods and other mions concerned in the demands for ncreased pay at this time will give answer to-morrow to the President's unter proposal for settlement of the wage situation. The labor men considered the matter in detail this afternoon and to-night.

In the meantime no official statement as to the nature of the President's proposal will be made public. gestion for settlement on a basis of Hines and embodied to a large extent

The President took the position of tionally or contrary to your wishes, and there certainly the Director-General that nothing was no intention on my part to assume powers and would be done by the Government at exercise functions which under the Constitution are to see that justice was done the rail-ALBANY, Feb. 13.-Some form of road workers, not directly through bonus for New York State war vet- Administration action, but through the

The issue has been turned again to Department of Labor figures have indi-

Lee Issues Announcement.

An announcement by W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Trainmen to-night was interpreted as meaning that there would be no immediate strike. In ganization were bound by the House decision, applicable to all rafiunions. The trainmen in cancelling their wage contract on February 23 had acted independently.

President Wilson's settlement propo-

Democrat from New York, has a bill sal was given to three chosen representat provides for a bonus of \$100 to tatives of the railroad unions in a someeach veteran, regardless of length of what dramatic manner this morning. After two changes of plan because of

golf cap. He shook hands with the three, B. M. Jewell, acting president of the railroad division of the American Federation of Labor; Timothy Shea, head of the Order of Railway Firemen Powerful Station Will Help Speed and Engineers, and E. J. Manlon, head of the Order of Rallway Telegraphers,

and greeted them warmly.

The men commented on his appearroad men said he appeared to be vigor-The Emperor has conferred upon John ous mentally and physically and was in

Counter Proposal in Writing. The President had prepared his an-

swer to the demands and appeal of the men for justice at his hands. In submitting it he asked them to consider a proposal that he would like to make, and such consideration was promised. The proposal was given in writing and the union men promised to send an answer within twenty-four hours. They went direct from the White House to the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and laid the probefore twenty-five representatives of all

It was learned on good authority that the decision given by the President on the pending demands was characterized as final and absolute. In giving it the President urged that the situation be carefully considered from the standpoint of public welfare. He indicated, it is understood, that he agreed that the men had justice on their side and he urged that they maintain their position in this respect and do nothing to jeopardize the

Strike talk has been put entirely in the background. This is significant in view of the fact that a final decision on the controversy is probably due not later than to-morrow. Leaders here are plainly not in favor of any strike move or of strike talk at this time. Though two organizations have prepared the way to quit work in a strike there seems probability of a general walkout leaders in Washington can keep control of the situation.

\$50,000 for Broken Spine.

The Central Railway Company of Elizabeth, N. J., was directed yesterday by a jury in Union county Circuit Court to a Harvard freshman, who is being pay Michael Hilva, formerly an elec-trician's helper employed by the company, \$50,000 compensation for injuries Hilva received in a fall while repairing a wire connection. Hilva's spine was broken and his limbs are paralyzed.

the police.

Letters of President and Mr. Lansing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 .- The following correspondence between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing was made public at the State Department to-night: The White House.

WASHINGTON, 7 February, 1920. My Dear Mr. Secretary:

Is it true, as I have been told, that during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments of the Government into conference? If it is I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to dwell upon until I learn from you yourself that this is the fact. Under our constitutional law and practice as developed hitherto no one but the President has the right to summon the STRIKE LESS PROBABLE | heads of the executive departments into contribution one but the Congress and the President has the right to ask their views or the views of any one of them

on public questions.

I take this matter up with you because, in the development of every constitutional system, custom and precedent are of the most serious consequence, and I think we all agree in desiring in not leading in any wrong direction. I have therefore taken the liberty of writing you to ask you this question, and I am sure you will

be glad to answer. I am happy to learn from your recent note to Mrs. Wilson that your strength is returning. Cordially and WOODROW WILSON. sincerely yours. Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State, Washington, Feb. 9, 1920. My Dear Mr. President:

It is true that frequently during your illness

requested the heads of the executive departments of the Government to meet for informal conference, Shortly after you were taken ill in October certain members of the Cabinet, of which I was one, felt that in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you it was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass on them. Accord-"justice to all." It was predicted on ingly I, as the ranking member, requested the members of the Cabinet to assemble for such informal conference. and in view of the mutual benefit derived the practice was continued. I can assure you that it never for a moment entered my mind that I was acting unconstitu-

exclusively confided to the President. During these troublous times when many difficult and vexatious questions have arisen and when in the circumstances I have been deprived of your guidance and direction it has been my constant endeavor to There are no passengers on board the erans is to be provided by the Legista- regional boards for the settlement of carry out your policies as I understood them and to such matters which are to be set up act in all matters as I believed you would wish act. If, however, you think that I have failed in my loyalty to you and if you no longer have confidence in me and prefer to have another conduct our foreign the situation in regard to the cost of affairs I am of course ready, Mr. President, to relieve The first message telling of the fire of the Republican majority, but de- agreement even among Government you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation

> ROBERT LANSING. Washington, 11 February, 1920. My Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am very much disappointed by your letter of February 9 in reply to mine asking about the so-called Cabinet meetings. these meetings and I find nothing in your letter which you to assume again full direction of foreign affairs. justifies your assumption of Presidential authority in such a matter. You say you "felt that, in view of ence with Director-General Hines, Mr. the fact that you were denied communication with me. it was wise to confer informally together on interdepartmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until my medical advisers permitted me" to be seen and consulted, but I have to remind you, Mr. Secretary, that no action could be taken grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged lies the mystery of how the Presiwithout me by the Cabinet, and therefore there could have been no disadvantage in awaiting action with the heads of the executive departments I sought to regard to matters concerning which action could not

have been taken without me. This affair, Mr. Secretary, only deepens a feeling that was growing upon me. While we were still in Paris I felt, and have felt increasingly since, that you accepted my guidance and direction on questions with regard to which I had to instruct you only with increasing reluctance, and since my return to Washington I have been struck by the number of matters in which failed to act as I did. you have apparently tried to forestall my judgment by formulating action, and merely asking my when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment because I had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of inde-

pendence. I therefore feel that I must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion that if I should prefer to have another to conduct our foreign affairs you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in my hands, for I must say that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the emparrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give your present office up and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and and afford me an opportunity to select some one whose mind would more willingly go along with mine.

I need not tell you with what rejuctance I take advantage of your suggestion or that I do so with the kindliest feeling. In matters of transcendent importance like these the only wise course is a course of perfect candor where personal feeling is as much as possible left out of the reckoning. Very sincerely yours,

Hon, Robert Lansing, Secretary of State. The Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1920. My Dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you sincerely for your candid letter My Dear Mr. Secretary: meets vour wishes.

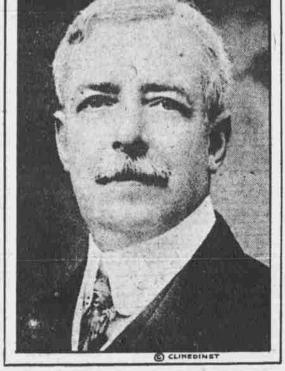
SHOOTS UP TROLLEY the conductor was fixing a light in his car which the sharpshooter had sniffed Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. out, the light in the next socket three CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 13.-A new feet away popped and nearly scared him form of sport, which he probably will to death. The crashing windows and not repeat, was devised early to-day by exploding of the bulbs sounded like the "bombardment of a glass factory." ac-

cording to workmen near by.

Almost a dozen cars, all of which for sought by the college authorities and From a dormitory window this in genious young student amused himself the marksman disappeared. We identity has not been learned the hunt for half an hour this morning by shoot- is on the vigor.

ing electric cars. On one occasion, when

you that I have not been unmindful that the continu- Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State.



ROBERT LANSING.

ance of our present relations was impossible and that i realized that it was clearly my duty to bring them to an end at the earliest moment compatible with the

public interest: Ever since January, 1919, I am conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations in dent was unexpected, following the Paris, to our foreign service or to international affairs many rumors of disagreement as to in general. Holding these views I would, if I had policy, but because of the nature of consulted my personal inclination alone, have resigned as Secretary of State and as a commissioner to negotiate peace: I felt, however, that such a step might have against his Secretary of State. een misinterpreted both at home and abroad and that To this charge Mr. Lansing enters it was my duty to cause you no embarrassment in a vigorous denial. He disclaims any carrying forward the great task in which you were intention whatsoever of seizing the then engaged. Possibly I erred in this, but if I did powers of the Executive, the grava-

it was with the best of motives.

When I returned to Washington in the latter part men of the President's astounding of July, 1919, my personal wish to resign had not charge, but, on the contrary, main changed, but again I felt that loyalty to you and my tains that in calling these meetings duty to the Administration compelled me to defer ac- of the Cabinet he was acting through tion, as my resignation might have been misconstrued, into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace or at least into disapproval of your views as to the ests and those of the country, and form of ratification. I therefore remained silent, avoid- what is more, he affirms that in this ing any comment on the reports that we were not in his views were supported by "certain

Subsequently your serious illness, during which I have never seen you, imposed upon me the duty-at least I construed it to be my duty-to remain in charge You kindly explain the motives of of the Department of State until your health permitted

Belleving that that time had arrived I had prepared my resignation, and my only doubt as to the President's mind, produced only repropriety of placing it in your hands was removed by cently, it would appear, by the conyour letter indicating that it would be entirely accept-

I think, Mr. President, after the frankness that has marked this correspondence, and for which I am being held. Behind this however, he imputation that in calling into informal conference usurp your Presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought. I believed then and I believe now that the conferences which were held were of the attendance at them, without the best interests of your Administration and of the Republic, and that bellef was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had retary Tumulty and Rear Admiral

I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval when it was impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to Cabinet, however, told the correspondexamine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, advised you what, in my opinion, that action should be, stating at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I meetings. This me ter, like all conceived to be a function of the Secretary of State, and others, had been in istant attend-I have followed the practice for the past four years ance at them, howe disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your deci-

eign affairs. I need hardly add that I leave the office of Secretary of State with only good will toward you, Mr. President,

and with a sense of profound relief.

Forgetting our differences and remembering only your many kindnesses in the past, I have the honor to be, ROBERT LANSING. Mr. President, Sincerely yours.

The President, the White House. The White House,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1920. of the 11th, in which you state that my resignation would be acceptable to you, since it relieves me of the ter of February twelfth. It now being evident, Mr. Secreptable to you, since it relieves me of the ter of February twelfth. It now being evident, Mr. Secreptable to you action which I have been secreptable to you since it relieves me of the ter of February twelfth. responsibility for action which I have been contemplating and which I can now take without hesitation as it of our recent relations with each other, I feel it my duty to accept your resignation, to take effect at once; I have the honor, therefore, to tender you my resignat the same time adding that I hope that the future nation as Secretary of State, the same to take effect holds for you many successes of the most gratifying sort. My best wishes will always follow you, and it In thus severing our official association I feel, Mr. will be a matter of gratification to me always to re-President, that I should make the following statement member our delightful personal relations. Sincerely which I had prepared recently and which will show yours, WOODROW WILSON.

HARVARD FRESHMAN ing out the windows and lights in pass- GREEK COLONEL IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

LONDON, Feb. 13 .- A Central News despatch from Athens reports the conclusion of the trial of members of the former Greek General Staff who had been accused of acting in behalf of German interests during the war. Col. Metaxas, relary Lansing insisted that they be chief assistant to the staff, was con-victed of high treason for surrendering Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians, and was

Gen. Doumanis was sentenced to penal servitude for tife, the despatch says. Two others was accelted. Lansing Vigorously Denies Any Attempt to Seize Executive Functions.

ONLY SOUGHT TO HELP

President Says He Was Ignorant of Meetings Until Recently.

BREAK BEGAN IN PARIS

Wilson Accused Secretary of Following Guidance With Increasing Reluctance.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HEBALD, WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.-Secretary Lansing has resigned. His resignation was demanded by the President, who in correspondence made public to-night charges his Secretary of State with having usurped the Presidential authority in calling the" informal sessions of the Cabinet which have been going on for the last four months and of which the President would have it appear that he did not know until recently.

Mr. Lansing's resignation was handed in vesterday. It has shaken Washington to its depths. This is not because a break between the leading member of the Cabinet and the Presithe charge which Mr. Wilson makes

solicitude for the President's intermembers of the Cabinet," whose

names he does not mention.

Wilson's Agitated Mind. The whole correspondence reveals a decidedly agitated state of the veyance to him of the Intalligence that these meetings of his at sers were dent, during the months that have passed, has come to approve of many decisions taken at these meetings and protest apparently, not only of all the Cabinet members but of at least two members of his personal suite. Sec-

Grayson. Secretary Lansing refused to be seen to-night after this correspondence was given out, and most of the members of the Cabinet remained discreetly silent. One member of the ent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HER-ALD that he did not remember ever having been consuited by Mr. Lansing as to the advisability of calling these

The resignation and its immediate cause broke on official Washington tonight like a bombshell. If the comment heard to-night indicates anything sympathy would appear to be more or less with Mr. Lansing. His conduct in calling together these meetings last fall when the Government threatened to come to a standstill through the condition of its Chief Executive has had unquestioned appreval. Not from the President's friends nor from the Republican op-

position had come the slightest demur. Polk to Be Acting Secretary.

Mr. Lansing ended his work as Secretary of State to-night, and it is understood he plans to return to the Watertown, N. Y. Frank L. Polk, as Under Secretary of State, will become acting Secretary of State until Mr. Lansing's successor is named and confirmed by the Senate.

In connection with Secretary Lansing's retirement the name of John Barton Payne persistently appeared in the Washington gossip to-night. One Senator wondered whether Mr. Lansing had retired because Judge Payne was appointed Secretary of the Interior, explaining that a short time ago there was a bitter personal controversy between the two over the question of delivering certain German ships to the British Government. Secreturned to Great Britain, while Judge Payne was just as insistent on keeping them until Great Britain returned some American tankers that she was holding. President Wilson decides that Mr. Lansing was right; but di